

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development, and Related Agencies  
H-307, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development, and Related Agencies  
H-307, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) Power Sector Task Force, we write to you to respectfully request that the Committee enact President Biden's vision to establish a Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office through the FY23 Appropriations bill, and we further request that the FY23 Appropriations bill include the maximum possible funding for the Department of Energy's Transmission Facilitation Program.

Modelling by Princeton University's Net Zero America Project has mapped out a wide variety of scenarios and pathways to net zero emissions, and in *all of these pathways*, the total electric transmission capacity in the United States is projected to increase by *two- to five-fold* over the next thirty years.<sup>1</sup> This is an enormous undertaking, requiring an unprecedented build-out of high-voltage and high-capacity long-distance transmission lines on a mindboggling timescale—an effort which would be simply impossible under the current regulatory framework and given current economic incentives.

The President understands this, and that is why he has requested \$90 million in the FY23 budget for a new Grid Deployment Office within the Department of Energy. This new Office will be tasked with carrying out the Administration's Building a Better Grid Initiative, to modernize and upgrade the nation's electric transmission lines and deploy cheaper, cleaner electricity across the country.

We, the members of the SEEC Power Sector Task Force, support the President's request and request that the Committee include the following funding in the FY23 Appropriations bill:

- **\$90 million for the establishment of the Grid Deployment Office:** to help develop, strengthen, and improve the resilience, efficiency, and overall capacity of our nation's electric grid, we ask that the Committee establish a new Grid Deployment Office through the FY23 Appropriations process. In addition to supporting the various grid provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), this office will serve as the catalyst for the development of new and upgraded high-capacity electric transmission lines nationwide. We ask that this funding include Transmission Permitting and Technical Assistance (TPTA) activities, previously funded under the Office of Electricity.
- **Maximum funding for the Transmission Facilitation Program:** IIJA funded the Building a Better Grid Initiative Transmission Facilitation Program at \$2.5 billion. This is a good start, but it is not nearly enough to achieve the intended purpose of the Program. In light of the high costs of developing long-haul transmission lines, the highest level of funding possible should be provided for the Program to ensure

stable funding for proposed transmission projects, to improve grid resilience and reliability, to facilitate interregional transfer of electricity, to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and to advance innovative technologies.

To achieve the President's goals of 100% clean electricity by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by 2050, an unprecedented war-time deployment of renewable energy is necessary, and this will require a correspondingly unparalleled build-out of transmission infrastructure. We therefore respectfully ask that the Committee support the President's request to establish a Grid Deployment Office within the Department of Energy and that the Committee appropriate the maximum funding possible for the Department of Energy Transmission Facilitation Program.

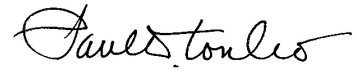
Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

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<sup>i</sup> Larson, Eric, Chris Greig, and Jesse Jenkins, et al. 2021. *Net-Zero America: Potential Pathways, Infrastructure, and Impacts*. <https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/the-report>.